

## Settlement Recalled

# Centennial Planned In Wasatch County

By SHIRLEY CHATWIN  
Deseret News Correspondent

MIDWAY, Wasatch County—The beautiful green Provo Canyon was an entirely different scene 100 years ago this spring. Instead of green grass abounding everywhere, snowslides blocked the passage.

This was the situation facing 10 men who left Provo a hundred years ago Thursday with ox teams and wagons, for the purpose of coming into what is now Heber Valley to try their luck at raising crops.

Snowslides were so bad that in several places they were required to uncouple the wagons and take them over the slides in separate pieces. Three days were required to make the trip, a drive today that takes about 45 minutes.

A special centennial celebration is planned in conjunction with the Wasatch County Fair this year, to honor the entrance of the pioneers into the valley.

To bring out the true spirit of the occasion, residents of the county will don pioneer garb, ride in covered wagons and exhibit old farm implements and pioneer relics. All

features of the fair will be built around the theme of "Yesteryears."

The county fair is headed by Arvil McAfee and has been set for Aug. 6, 7 and 8.

### Descendants Still Here

Many descendants of the first 10 men still live in the county keeping the family names alive. These men were: Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles Carroll, John Carlile, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, James Carlile, William Giles Jr., George Carlile and a man named Carpenter.

Upon entering the valley they found four men busy plowing with oxen. These men had arrived several days earlier. They were James Davis, Robert Broadhead, Robert Parker and William Cummings.

The men coming from Provo camped a mile north of where the city of Heber now stands. Since most of these men were from England they called it London. A spring at the site retains the name.

### Covered With Brush

The valley lay nestled beneath towering Mt. Timpanogos. Most of it was covered with sage brush. The men chose their first campsite, where they found some short grass.

Log cabins were built close together in a fort shape for protection from Indian attacks. These houses were nearly all built from green cottonwood logs cut on the river bottom.

The first white child born in the valley was Timpanogos Davidson, daughter of William and Ellen Davidson. The first child born in the fort was Sarah Crook, daughter of John and Mary Ellen Crook.

By the spring of 1860 there were about 200 people in the valley. William Wall was appointed presiding elder.

Heber City was named in honor of Heber C. Kimball, who at that time was first counselor to president Brigham Young.

London Springs

## Settlement Recalled

# Centennial Planned In Wasatch County

By SHIRLEY CHATWIN  
Deseret News Correspondent

MIDWAY, Wasatch County

The beautiful green Provo Canyon was an entirely different scene 100 years ago this spring. Instead of green grass abounding everywhere, snowslides blocked the passage.

This was the situation facing 10 men who left Provo a hundred years ago Thursday with ox teams and wagons, for the purpose of coming into what is now Heber Valley to try their luck at raising crops.

Snowslides were so bad that in several places they were required to uncouple the wagons and take them over the slides in separate pieces. Three days were required to make the trip, a drive today that takes about 45 minutes.

A special centennial celebration is planned in conjunction with the Wasatch County Fair this year, to honor the entrance of the pioneers into the valley.

To bring out the true spirit of the occasion, residents of the county will don pioneer garb, ride in covered wagons, and exhibit old farm implements and pioneer relics. All

features of the fair will be built around the theme of "Yesteryears."

The county fair is headed by Arvil McAfee and has been set for Aug. 6, 7 and 8.

### Descendants Still Here

Many descendants of the first 10 men still live in the county keeping the family names alive. These men were: Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles Carroll, John Carlile, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, James Carlile, William Giles Jr., George Carlile and a man named Carpenter.

Upon entering the valley they found four men busy plowing with oxen. These men had arrived several days earlier. They were James Davis, Robert Broadhead, Robert Parker and William Cummings.

The men coming from Provo camped a mile north of where the city of Heber now stands. Since most of these men were from England they called it London. A spring at the site retains the name.

### Covered With Brush

The valley lay nestled beneath towering Mt. Timpanogos. Most of it was covered with sage brush. The men chose their first campsite, where they found some short grass.

Log cabins were built close together in a fort-shape for protection from Indian attacks. These houses were nearly all built from green cottonwood logs cut on the river bottom.

The first white child born in the valley was Timpanogos Davidson, daughter of William and Ellen Davidson. The first child born in the fort was Sarah Crook daughter of John and Mary Crook.

By the spring of 1866 there were about 200 people in the valley. William Wall was appointed presiding elder.

Heber City was named in honor of Heber C. Kimball, who at that time was first counselor to president Brigham Young.

## Settlement Recalled

# Centennial Planned In Wasatch County

By SHIRLEY CHATWIN

Deseret News Correspondent

MIDWAY, Wasatch County

The beautiful green Provo Canyon was an entirely different scene 100 years ago this spring. Instead of green grass abounding everywhere, snowslides blocked the passage.

This was the situation facing 10 men who left Provo a hundred years ago Thursday with ox teams and wagons, for the purpose of coming into what is now Heber Valley to try their luck at raising crops.

Snowslides were so bad that in several places they were required to uncouple the wagons and take them over the slides in separate pieces. Three days were required to make the trip, a drive today that takes about 45 minutes.

A special centennial celebration is planned in conjunction with the Wasatch County Fair this year, to honor the entrance of the pioneers into the valley.

To bring out the true spirit of the occasion, residents of the county will don pioneer garb and ride in covered wagons, and exhibit old farm implements and pioneer relics. All

features of the fair will be built around the theme of "Yesteryears."

The county fair is headed by Arvil McAfee and has been set for Aug. 6, 7 and 8.

### Descendants Still Here

Many descendants of the first 10 men still live in the county keeping the family names alive. These men were: Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles Carroll, John Carlile, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, James Carlile, William Giles Jr., George Carlile and a man named Carpenter.

Upon entering the valley they found four men busy plowing with oxen. These men had arrived several days earlier. They were James Davis, Robert Broadhead, Robert Parker and William Cummings.

The men coming from Provo camped a mile north of where the city of Heber now stands. Since most of these men were from England, they called it London. A spring at the site retains the name.

### Covered With Brush

The valley lay nestled beneath towering Mt. Timpanogos. Most of it was covered with sage brush. The men chose their first campsite, where they found some short grass.

Log cabins were built close together in a fort-shape for protection from Indian attacks. These houses were nearly all built from green cottonwood logs cut on the river bottom.

The first white child born in the valley was Timpanogos Davidson, daughter of William and Ellen Davidson. The first child born in the fort was Sarah Crook, daughter of John and Arvil Crook.

By the spring of 1860 there were about 200 people in the valley. William Wall was appointed presiding elder.

Heber City was named in honor of Heber C. Kimball, who at that time was first counselor to president Brigham Young.

Earliest settlers

The Provo Canyon Company was formed the next evening, with President Young himself subscribing for 200 shares of stock. Feramorz Little was named superintendent of the project with W. G. Mills as clerk. A company of laborers was formed and work began on the road.

As the wagon ruts through the canyon were formed into a road, the laborers faced the necessity of building a bridge over the Provo River. It was decided to place the bridge near the mouth of the canyon, and engineering work was begun immediately by Henry Grow, who later won fame for his construction of the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

When the bridge was completed in October of 1858 the Deseret News said in its edition of Oct. 13, 1858, that the bridge was "substantially and neatly made and calculated to be of service for many years to the inhabitants of Utah County."

While the road saved many miles for transcontinental teamsters and travelers in and out of Utah County, its most important contribution came in opening up Wasatch County for permanent settlement.

## CHAPTER TWO

### *...And There Was Life in the Valley*

Winter in the mountains and valleys of Deseret was a test of faith and stamina for the pioneer Saints. Snows and bitter, blowing winds came early and lasted long. In the high valleys of the Wasatch the frosts were heavy in September and snows were on the ground in October. Spring sunshine rarely melted the earth's snow crust until late March or April, leaving only about five summer months to prepare for cold, ice and snow all over again.

Anxieties about the weather were sharply accentuated for some 11 pioneer families in Utah Valley during the winter of 1858-59, for they were making plans to move into new homes high in the Wasatch mountains when Spring came.

The road through Provo Canyon had been finished before the snows fell and a bridge spanned the Provo River. With the decision made to move into the valley, they spent the short days and long, crisp winter nights in building furniture and making clothes. Plows had to be sharpened and harrows made ready for the sagebrush and soil of the new country. Wagons had to be repaired and those who lacked teams had to acquire them.

William Meeks was appointed leader of the group and they met frequently under his direction to ask the Lord to bless them in their preparations. Their constant prayer was that the elements would be tempered so they could mature crops and sustain themselves and their families in the new country.

Spring came late in 1859 and it was the last day of April before the group of 11 men with their three wagons and teams of oxen could leave Provo.

Families of the men had agreed to remain behind in Provo until log cabins could be built and other preparations made for their coming. Tearfully, the wives and children stood by that April morning as they watched their husbands and fathers start out toward Provo Canyon and a new life.

Facing the uncertainties of the venture were Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Carlile, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, James Carlile, William Giles Jr., William Carpenter and George Carlile.

Winter and the forces of nature had played havoc with the road in many places and traveling was slow. In addition, several snowslides blocked the route, making the journey hazardous as well as exhausting.







Dirt floors, dirt roofs and mud packed between the logs were the order of the day.

When the crops were planted and the log huts prepared, the men left the valley and went back to Provo where happy families greeted them with shouts of "How's the weather?" and "When are we going?"

With wives, children, cows, pigs, chickens and all their earthly possessions packed, the original company started out and were joined by others who were cheered by the reports of a good summer and plenty of farming land and irrigation water. Some of the additional families who came were Thomas H. Giles, John Giles, Hiram Oaks and George Carlile.

During that first summer, some 1,000 bushels of grain were raised in the valley. Though some of the wheat crop was injured by early frost, it could still be made into flour and the settlers rejoiced for the blessings of the harvest. Because the nearest gristmill was in Provo and a four-days' journey away, many of the people ground flour in small hand mills or boiled the wheat and ate it whole with milk.

With the crops in and summer on the wane, dread winter again loomed up before the people. Farming efforts had been to raise wheat and other crops to sustain human life, and so before winter came it was necessary to cut meadow hay and swamp grass for cattle wherever it could be found. All of it had to be cut by hand with a scythe, which proved to be the hardest work of the summer.

Many of the men who had come to the valley during the summer and raised their crops decided that they would return to Provo for the winter rather than provide hay for their cattle and be shut out from the rest of the world for the long winter months.

However, 18 families had cast their lot with Provo Valley and through the winter they stayed. These families, according to the journal of John Crook, were Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Jordan, Alexander Sessions, Bradford Sessions, Hiram Oaks, John Lee, Richard Jones, James Davis, William Davidson, James Laird, John Sessions, Elisha Thomas, James Carlile and George Carlile. Jane Clotworthy and Elizabeth Carlile were both widows. Charles C. Thomas, unmarried, lived with his brother Elisha. No record is made of the exact number of women and children.

The first birth among the settlers in the valley occurred in November. The child, a daughter of William Davidson and his wife, Ellen, was named Timpanogos, the Indian name for the valley and the prominent mountain that lay at the west.

For those who remained, the first winter in the valley was a long and dreary one. The snow fell early and was several feet deep. For nearly four months they were without communication from the rest of the world.

At Christmas time, however, a group of young people from Provo braved the weather and came through the canyon by sleigh and spent the holiday season with the families in the valley. They soon left and no one else came into the valley until the snows melted.

//

Their being shut out from the rest of the world did not mean that the settlers spent the winter days and nights with long faces and twiddling thumbs. Quite the opposite. Meeting in the various log homes, they held Church meetings each Sabbath day and during the week gathered for singing, dancing and dramatics.

As the Spring of 1860 neared they hopefully looked for signs that winter was leaving and warm weather was on its way. By the end of March when the snow was still as deep as ever and no signs of Spring were evident, some began to get discouraged. It was finally determined that all would meet at the home of Thomas Rasband where a meeting would be held and the help of the Lord sought.

Those present reported that during the meeting they prayed sincerely and earnestly that the Lord would cause the snow to melt and Spring to come so that their famished oxen and cows might get grass to eat and that they could plant their crops and be in touch again with their friends in the lower valleys.

Before the meeting was dismissed there was water dripping from the eaves of the house and Spring was born in the valley.

According to John Crook's journal, those who spent the winter of 1860-61 in the fort with their families were:

North Side: John Carlile, John Crook, Thomas Rasband, James Carlile, Fred Giles, Robert S. Duke, Willis Boren, James Davis, Robert Broadhead, Hyrum Oaks, Alfred Johnson, Sam Rooker, William Damaron, James Lamon and John Lee.

East Side: Alex Sessions, Richard Jones, Elisha Thomas, Bradford Sessions, Isaac Cummings, Darwin Walton, John Cummings Sr., Charles N. Carroll, George Damaron, Bailes Sprouse, Thomas Hicken, George Thompson and Norton Jacobs.

South Side: Thomas Moulton, Patrick Carroll, William Forman, John Muir, John M. Murdock, Thomas Todd, Cal Henry and Robert Carlile.

West Side: Jane Clotworthy, Zemira Palmer, James Duke, James Laird, Cub Johnson, John Davis, Robert Parker, Terry Burns, William McDonald, John Hamilton, George W. Clyde, John Witt, Joseph S. McDonald, John Jordan, a Mr. Russell and John McDonald.

By the time Spring was welcomed in 1861 the community of Heber was recognized by Church leaders in Salt Lake City as being large enough to organize into a ward. Thus, early in 1861 Joseph S. Murdock was ordained as bishop of the new ward by President Brigham Young and sent from American Fork to Heber to take charge of Church affairs. He chose as his counselors John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband. John Hamilton served as ward clerk.

Bishop Murdock also served as presiding bishop of the valley and directed the Church efforts of presiding elders who were called in the small communities that had begun to spring up in the valley. These community developments are discussed separately in later chapters.

The year 1861 proved to be a year of many significant accomplishments. With Church activity on an organized basis and the individual homes as well fixed as possible for that time, the settlers began to look to community improvements.

Provisions were made for old and new settlers to plant vegetable gardens outside the fort. Ephraim Smith and William P. Reynolds built a chopper run by horse power to chop wheat for those who could not go to the mills in Provo. While it was still somewhat crude, the chopper was a great help to those who had been grinding their flour in small hand mills.

Another bridge was built over the Provo River, this one located six miles north of Heber on the road to Salt Lake City. A good wagon road was also made through Provo Canyon, with toll being charged for use of the road.

John M. Murdock organized a cooperative sheep herd in 1860 and cared for the sheep during the summer months himself. He was able to take the sheep far enough south to winter out so that they did not need special supplies of hay. This method of caring for the sheep enabled